

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 06745 151604Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 06745

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CVIS, SHUM, SREF, CU, US
SUBJECT: STATISTICS AND PROCESSING OF CUBAN EMIGREES

REF: STATE 144407

1. EMIGRANTS FROM CUBA ARE ARRIVING IN SPAIN AT A
NOTABLY SLOWER PACE THAN TWO YEARS AGO. WHILE IT SEEMS
THAT FEWER NUMBERS ARE DUE AT LEAST PARTLY TO SLOWED
CUBAN GOVERNMENT PROCESSING (WHETHER DELIBERATE OR NOT)
OF APPLICATIONS FOR EXIT, REDUCED NUMBERS ALSO MAY
MANIFEST CHANGING TRAVEL PATTERNS, WITH MORE CUBAN
EMIGRANTS GOING TO US DIRECTLY FROM CUBA OR VIA OTHER
COUNTRIES IN CARIBBEAN.

2. ACCORDING TO SPANISH RED CROSS AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL
COMMITTEE FOR EUROPEAN MIGRATION FIGURES, THERE WERE 819
ARRIVALS FROM CUBA DURING 1977, OR AVERAGE OF 68 PER
MONTH. FROM JANUARY THROUGH MAY THIS YEAR, THERE WERE
300 ARRIVALS, OR AVERAGE OF 60 PER MONTH. THE DECLINE
IS EVEN MORE DRAMATIC WHEN THE ARRIVALS IN EACH OF THE
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FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF THE YEAR ARE COMPARED FOR THE PAST
THREE YEARS:

-	1976	1977	1978
JANUARY	248	48	63
FEBRUARY	360	74	68

MARCH	481	74	69
APRIL	446	99	40
MAY	206	104	60

3. PASSPORTS OF MOST CUBAN REFUGEES WHO ARRIVED IN SPAIN ABOUT FOUR TO EIGHT MONTHS AGO AND NOW ARE RECEIVING IMMIGRANT VISAS SHOW THAT THE ORIGINAL PASSPORT APPLICATION WAS MADE DURING 1972. THE OPERATING HEAD OF ONE OF THE VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS ASSISTING CUBAN REFUGEES HERE TELLS US THAT HE UNDERSTANDS FROM RECENT ARRIVALS THAT CUBAN AUTHORITIES NOW ARE CONSIDERING ONLY THOSE APPLICATIONS MADE IN 1970 OR BEFORE, EXCEPT FOR A FEW EMERGENCY CASES. HIS REFUGEE SOURCES ASCRIBE THIS TO DELIBERATE GOVERNMENT SLOWDOWN, BUT WHETHER FROM INTENT TO DISCOURAGE EMIGRATION OR SIMPLY LACK OF SUFFICIENT BUREAUCRATIC RESOURCES IS UNCLEAR.

4. THE SAME VOLUNTARY AGENCY SOURCE HAS HEARD RECENTLY THAT ELDERLY EMIGREES, ESPECIALLY PARENTS OF US RESIDENTS AND CITIZENS, ARE BEING REQUIRED TO EXIT VIA SPAIN. NO FURTHER DETAILS REGARDING THIS INFORMATION PRESENTLY AVAILABLE. BREMENT

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